authority to the Emergency Relief Coordinator, should be considered and approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.

5. It was stated that field coordination needed to be further strengthened. The current arrangements, including the concept of lead agency, needed to be reviewed. The Emergency Relief Coordinator should be provided with more authority, the terms of reference for his decision-making adopted and qualified personnel made available for field coordination functions. It was expressed that recent demands made on the Office were outstripping its capacity to respond, owing to the lack of resources available.

6. Concern was expressed about the reasons why the Steering Committee of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee referred to in recommendation 2 of the report, had not been established, as proposed by the Secretary-General in 1997. Clarification was sought as to whether the establishment of the Steering Committee was still needed.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended approval of recommendations 1 and 3 of the triennial report, subject to the following observations:

The Committee stressed the need to finalize the development of special emergency rules and procedures, taking into account the requirements of the Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs emergency activities. These rules and procedures should be considered and approved by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.